



December 2007

*Enhancing collaboration and co-operation between basic and applied
researchers in memory and cognition*

Message from the Executive Director
Mike Toglia

I begin this message with a sense of modesty in noting as many of you may know, that at our biennial meeting in July the SARMAC Board of Governors re-elected me to a new 4-year term as Executive Director. I am deeply honored by their trust in me and I promise to continue my unwavering commitment to the Society.

As we approach a new year, I am pleased to report that 2007 was very successful for SARMAC. Particularly noteworthy was the aforementioned July meeting at Bates College. Please read Amy Bradfield Douglass' piece on SARMAC VII in this newsletter. One more time....Thank you Amy!

At this meeting we unveiled plans for SARMAC VIII to be held July 2009 in Kyoto, Japan. The organizing committee, headed up by Kaz Mori is already busily working away in planning our visit to Japan.

Another major 2007 achievement to celebrate is that we reached a record for membership at about 300. The celebration should be brief as we will not rest on our laurels. As I have continually said, we must not become complacent when it comes to membership, our lifeblood. I will continue as will our membership committee and press officer to explore ways to further increase the Society's membership. I expect a boost from the "make over" of our website spearheaded by Kathy Pezdek. The new look will go live soon. I appreciate your thoughts on membership; please

direct suggestions to me at toglia@cortland.edu. I am particularly interested in advertising initiatives, and seeking new members from countries that are not currently represented in our organization.

My thanks go out to Steve Lindsay, Frank Durso and John Turtle whose Board terms conclude at the end of this year. They all decided not to seek re-election. Speaking of which, I am pleased to announce the results of the recent election to seat 6 members on the Board of Governors. In alpha order those elected to 4-year terms beginning January 1, 2008 are: Neil Brewer, Robyn Fivush, Maryanne Garry, Tim Perfect, Kathy Pezdek, and Maria Zaragoza. Congratulations and welcome!

In closing, another "welcome" is in order for Robyn Fivish of Emory University who was recently selected to work with Bob Belli as an Associate Editor in North America for our journal *Applied Cognitive Psychology*. She joins Chris Meissner who earlier in the year began associate editorial duties. The number of submissions that Bob receives has increased in the last two years to the point where he needs two editorial assistants. This speaks very well for *ACP*. *Cognitive Technology* is also doing well and I have asked for a status report on the journal that I will share with everyone in January.

January is just around the corner and thus I look forward to another great year for SARMAC in 2008. I hope 2008 will be terrific for all of you as well. Best wishes to you all in the New Year.

SARMAC VII Biennial Conference Amy Douglass

The most recent SARMAC conference was held in July at Bates College in Maine. During the conference, original research on a wide range of applied topics was presented by undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. Among those presenting were four prominent researchers who gave keynote addresses. Thanks again to Drs. Norbert Schwarz, Mark Howe, Suparna Rajaram, and Craig Anderson (presented by Cognitive Technology) for their exciting talks. In addition, there were 35 paper sessions and symposia, all of which contained high quality, original research.

Most would agree that Saturday afternoon's poster sessions provided the most dramatic moment of the conference. The first session occurred in a stifling room at the Edmund Muskie Archives and the decision to move the second poster session outside was met with much relief (thanks again to all those who helped move posters and easels). However, our decision to hold the second session outside was quickly called into question when a thunderstorm rolled through in the middle of the session. Thanks to everyone's patience and good humor, the weather did not overshadow an otherwise excellent session. I hope all attendees would agree that SARMAC VII at Bates College was a huge success! Look for more information in upcoming newsletters regarding our next meeting in Japan.

What's In a Name? Avraham Levi

An Opinion Piece

SARMAC: The Society for Applied Research Memory and Cognition, with an official journal entitled Applied Cognitive Psychology. I just answered a short questionnaire which defined me as a "Cognitive Psychologist". However, I was "born and bred" a Social Psychologist. I haven't

until now paid any attention to the semantic differentiation. I have felt very much at home in SARMAC, with its strong emphasis on eyewitness identification, my field of interest for the last twenty years, where I have also met other social psychologists.

Recent thinking about the field of eyewitness identification has led me to wondering whether there are some very important potential research areas almost completely untouched. Eyewitness researchers have been uncovering many principles of best practice that have by and long been honored in the breach by the criminal justice system. A few recent breakthroughs, such as the inclusion in the US Department of Justice's guidelines of a few sound psychological principles or the recent interest in the sequential lineup should not blind us to the remaining wide gap between police practice and best practice, even in England.

Some experts have been active on a number of fronts to improve the situation, using their intuition and taking advantage of the public interest generated by the findings of the Innocence Project. Some initiatives have been quite successful. Others have generated much controversy, and the jury is still out on the final outcome. Others, mine included, have fallen flat on their faces.

Eyewitness reform, as eyewitness identification, is a topic amenable to research. It is clearly an important area too. It is also a quite difficult topic, and also not likely only within the purview of cognitive psychologists. We need all the help we can get from social psychologists and from those whose call themselves applied behavioral scientists.

What's in a name? Is SARMAC going to be open as a forum for dealing with these issues? I hope so.

Memory for Emotional Experiences

Klimes-Dougan, B., Safer, M. A.,
Ronsaville, D., Tinsley, R., & Harris, S. J.

A number of SARMAC members have investigated memory for emotional experiences that people think should be well remembered, such as past episodes when one was sexually abused. We investigated memory for past reports of suicidal ideation, plans, and attempts. Here is a brief description of our study. The reference is Klimes-Dougan, B., Safer, M. A., Ronsaville, D., Tinsley, R., & Harris, S. J. (2007). The value of forgetting suicidal thoughts and behavior. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 37, 431 - 438.

A primarily at-risk group of young adults (N = 78) who were initially assessed for suicidal ideation and behavior in adolescence, were asked to recall whether they had reported suicidal ideation or behavior about six years earlier. In recalling the previous interview, the majority of the participants provided consistent reports. However, among those who had previously reported suicidal ideation or behavior, 38% failed to recall prior adolescent suicidal reports. Those who provided accurate reports of prior suicidal content were more symptomatic (self-report) and were functioning more poorly (clinician rating) than those who failed to recall past suicidal content. Similarly, a four-year follow-up of German adolescents who had reported a suicide attempt found that those who still recalled the attempt were more likely than those who forgot the attempt, to have met DSM-IV criteria for the lifetime experience of somatoform and depressive disorders. Failing to accurately recall past suicidal thoughts or behaviors, or perhaps just remembering them more benignly, may indicate that one has "moved on" and not made them part of one's life story. These findings suggest that forgetting and minimizing may serve to ameliorate the impact of negative experiences. Rather than describe such forgetting as a defense mechanism, it may be an adaptive "offense" mechanism that

helps individuals to regulate negative affect. For some, a tendency to forget, deny, or reinterpret suicidal thoughts and behavior may in fact suggest a resilience or useful protective mechanism, in which case, clinical efforts may most effectively be directed toward enhancing these adaptive processes.

Call for Papers 6th International Conference on
Education and Information Systems,
Technologies and Applications
Professor Andres Tremante, EISTA 2008 General
Chair

We invite you to submit a paper/abstract to The 6th International Conference on Education and Information Systems, Technologies and Applications (<http://www.socioinfocyper.org/eista2008>).

The conference will take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, from June 29th, 2008 through July 2nd, 2008. The deadlines are as follows:

- **Submissions:** December 18th, 2007
- **Acceptance:** February 6th, 2008
- **Camera-ready:** March 5th, 2008

We are emphasizing the area of Learning Systems which, we think, is related to your specific academic or professional area.

Submitted papers or extended abstracts will have three kinds of reviews: double-blind (by at least three reviewers), non-blind, and participative peer-to-peer reviews.

Authors of accepted papers who registered in the conference can have access to the reviews made to their submission so they can accordingly improve the final version of their papers. Non-registered authors may not have access to the reviews of their respective submissions.

Awards will be granted to the best paper of those presented at each session. From these session's best papers, the best 10%-20% of the papers

presented at the conference will be selected for their publication in Volume 6 of JSCI Journal (www.iiisci.org/Journal/SCI) and sent free to over 220 research libraries. Libraries of journal author's organizations will receive complimentary subscriptions of at least one volume (6 issues).

Also, we would like to invite you to organize an invited session related to a topic of your research interest. If you are interested in organizing an invited session, please, fill out the respective form provided in the conference web page. We will send you a password, so you can include and modify papers in your invited session.

More details about the reviewing process, the acceptance policy, organizing invited sessions, and submission deadlines can be found at our web site.

If the deadlines are tight and you need more time, let us know about a suitable time for you and I will inform you if it is feasible for us.

Articles/Papers by SARMAC Members

Desjardins, T., & Scoboria, A. (2007). 'You and your best friend Suzy put a toy in Mrs. Smollett's desk': Producing false memories with self-relevant details. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 14(6), 1090-1095.

Bonnie Klimes-Dougan, PhD, Martin A. Safer, PhD, Donna Ronsaville, PhD, Ruth Tinsley, BA, and Susan J. Harris, MA. The Value of Forgetting Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior

Lindsay, D. S. (in press). Order effects in collaborative memory contamination? Comment on Gabbert, Memon, and Wright (2006). *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*.

Lindsay, D. S. (2007). Autobiographical memory, eyewitness reports, and public policy. *Canadian Psychology*, 48, 57-66.

Baer, J., Kaufman, J. C., & Baumeister, R.F. (Eds). (in press). *Psychology and free will*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sternberg, R. J., Kaufman, J. C., & Grigorenko, E. L. (in press). *Applied intelligence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

SARMAC Member Article Highlight

THE VALUE OF FORGETTING SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIOR

Author(s): Bonnie Klimes-Dougan, PhD, | Martin A. Safer, PhD, | Donna Ronsaville, PhD, | Ruth Tinsley, BA, | Susan J. Harris, MA

This is a prospective longitudinal study examining recollections of suicidal content and correlates of accurate and inaccurate recollection. A primarily at-risk group of young adults ($N = 78$) who were initially assessed for suicidal ideation and behavior in adolescence were asked to recall whether they had reported suicidal ideation or behavior about six years earlier. In recalling the previous interview, the majority of the participants provided consistent reports. However, with regard to those who had previously reported suicidal ideation or behavior, 38% failed to recall prior adolescent suicidal reports. Those who provided accurate reports of prior suicidal content were more symptomatic and were functioning more poorly than those who failed to recall past suicidal content. The implications for clinical assessment practices, research, and theory development are discussed.

For more information, go to: <http://www.atypon-link.com/GPI/doi/abs/10.1521/suli.2007.37.4.431?cookieSet=1&journalCode=suli>

Congratulations to our Fellow SARMAC Members

Congratulations to our fellow SARMAC members for earning the following awards and honors—appearing in the media---publishing and making some outstanding presentations!

NAME	Amanda Wudarzewski
AWARDS AND HONORS	<p>Congratulations to Amanda Wudarzewski who's recent awards include the <u>Niagara Regional Development Council Scholarship</u>, which honors a student in fourth year (undergraduate) student writing an honors a thesis dealing with economic development and/or regional planning in the Niagara area. Amanda's study is on remembering taste experiences about wine. Amanda is working as Research Assistant during the opening of the new Consumer Perception and Cognition Lab at Brock University in collaboration with the Cool Climate Oenology & Viticulture Institute. In February 2008, Amanda will be presenting her honours thesis as a competitive paper at the Society for Consumer Psychology conference in New Orleans, LA. In September 2008, after completing her honours BA in psychology Amanda is hoping to apply to various graduate programs in both fields of psychology and marketing.</p>

NAME	Emmanuel Manalo and Jenny Marshal, University of Auckland, New Zealand
AWARDS AND HONORS	<p>Congratulations to Emmanuel and Jenny! On December 6th, Associate Professor Emmanuel Manalo and colleague Jenny Marshall (University of Auckland, New Zealand) received the inaugural Award for <u>Outstanding Academic Integrity Resource</u> at the recent Asia-Pacific Conference on Educational Integrity held at the University of South Australia. The award was for Referencite <www.cite.auckland.ac.nz>, a web-based academic referencing resource which Jenny created based on Emmanuel's original idea and initial plans. Referencite stresses the culturally shared values at the core of academic referencing, and provides tools to make the practice easier.</p>

NAME	Stephen Lindsay
AWARDS AND HONORS	Congratulations Stephen for completing your terms as Editor of <i>Journal of Experimental Psychology: General!</i>

NAME	Helga Noice, Elmhurst College
AWARDS AND HONORS	<p>Our congratulations goes to Helga Noice and Tony Noice. McGraw-Hill has requested to reproduce the following article of theirs!</p> <p>'What Studies of Actors and Acting Can Tell Us About Memory and Cognitive Functioning'; <i>Current Directions in Psychological Science</i>, Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 14-18, in their forthcoming College textbook entitled ANNUAL EDITIONS: Psychology, ed. Karen G. Duffy</p>

Submissions

Leslie Miller and Lauren Shapiro

We encourage you to send us information to share with your SARMAC colleagues. We are interested in recent publications, job announcements, calls for papers – or anything else you'd like to share with your colleagues. If you would like to include information in the next newsletter (winter, 2007) please email Leslie (Drlesliemiller@hotmail.com) or Lauren lshapiro@emporia.edu.

For more information about SARMAC Contact:

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Helping to Increase SARMAC Membership

Please invite your students and colleagues who do cognitive psychology research that spans applied and basic interests to join the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC).

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